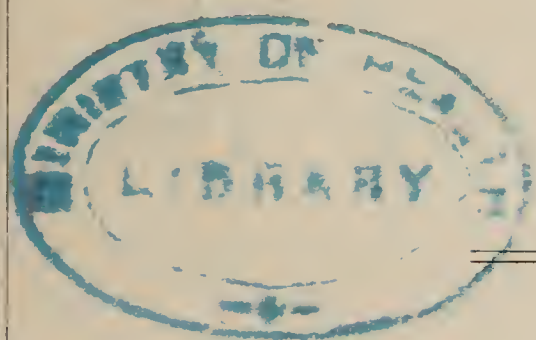


1945



ANNUAL REPORT

AND

Vital Statistics

FOR THE YEAR 1945

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT

OF

WINSFORD

Prepared by the Medical Officer of Health for
the District, in accordance with instructions
from the Ministry of Health

WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1945

To the Chairman and Members of the
Winsford Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1945.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	7,094 acres.
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	10,720
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)	...	...	...	...	3,337
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£48,861
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£195

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General:—

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate	151	73	78)	Birth rate per 1,000 of
(Illegitimate	22	14	8)	the estimated resident
				population ... 16.13.
Still Births (Legitimate	4	1	3)	Rate per 1,000 total
(Illegitimate	3	1	2)	(live and still) births
				38.88.
Deaths	157	69	88	Death Rate per 1,000
				of the estimated resident
				population ... 14.64.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	1 5.55.
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	...	1 5.55.
Total	...	2 11.10.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	17.34.
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		19.86.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	. ...	16.
„ „ Measles (all ages)	... ..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	1.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... ..	—

CAUSES OF DEATH—1945.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3	5
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
9. Influenza	3	2	5
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Ac : polio-myel : & polio-enceph :	—	—	—
12. Ac : inf : enceph :	—	1	1
13. Cancer of b : cav . & oesoph : (M)	—	—	—
uterus (F)	—	1	1
14. Cancer of Stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	5	8	13
17. Diabetes	1	3	4
18. Intra-cran : vasc : lesions	3	14	17
19. Heart Diseases	21	19	40
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	4	7
21. Bronchitis	6	2	8
22. Pneumonia	1	—	1
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	9	12
28. Nephritis	2	3	5
29. Puerperal & Post-abortion : Sepsis	—	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
31. Premature Births	—	—	—
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	1	—	1
33. Suicide	—	2	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
35. Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
36. All other Causes	13	12	25
TOTALS	69	88	157

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Adequate arrangements were made for the continuance of the Cleansing Centre Service through the Joint M.O.H. Committee who have worked the Scabies Order in Winsford and the three adjoining County Districts since early 1942. The Winsford patients dealt with during 1945 at the John Street Cleansing Centre are recorded under Section F.

During April, 1945, the Council's Ambulance Service was inaugurated. This Service offers free transport in a first-class vehicle to residents of Winsford and Darnhall to & from Hospitals within a radius of 30 miles from Winsford. Charges are made for the use of the Ambulance for distances beyond the 30 miles radius. Not all of the 48 patients removed during the course of the year were Winsford or Darnhall residents, as patients from adjoining areas shared in the benefits of this new Service.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—

The Town's Public Water Supply taken from the Council's own sources has been maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition both as regards quality and quantity.

During the course of the year 58 samples (56 from the Town's Public Supply and 2 from private sources) were submitted to the Laboratories for Physical, Chemical, Bacteriological and Residual Chlorine Examinations with the following results:—

4 Chemical and Physical Examinations:—

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Site.</i>	<i>Analyst's Report.</i>
1	Abbott's Moss Bypass Supply (raw).	"Only in case of necessity should this supply be used"
1	Bark House Cottages (raw).	"Not entirely free from suspicion."
1	Knight's Grange Farm (raw).	"Wholesome supply."
1	Oakmere Lake (raw).	"Subject to "alum flocc" treatment, adjustments to reaction & filtration followed by effective chlorination, the intake of this supply is justified."

33 Bacteriological Examinations :—

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Site.</i>	<i>Analyst's Report.</i>
25	Clive Garage (4 samples). U.D.C. Offices (6 samples). N.U.D. supply in Winsford (2 samples). Raw Oakmere Water (3 samples). Swanlow. Knight's Grange Farm (raw) "Oakleigh," Over. Wheat Sheaf Hotel. Commonside Garage, Little Budworth. Stretches Spring (raw). Shay's Pool (raw). Shrewsbury Arms, Little Budworth (2 samples). Wimboldsley School (N.R.D.)	Satisfactory.
2	Abbott's Moss (raw), Bark House Cottages (raw).	Fairly Satisfactory.
1	Shay's Pool (raw).	"Maintenance of controlled chlorination needed to render wholesome."
3	Abbott's Moss (raw). Abbott's Moss By-pass Supply (raw). Shay's Pool.	"Rather worse than border-line quality."
2	Abbott's Moss (raw). Shay's Pool (raw).	"Incidence of excretal B. Coli confirmed."

—
33

21 Residual Chlorine Examinations :—

21	"Varying from Nil at the C.W.S. Bacon Factory and Clive Garage to 0.50 p.p.m. at Commonside Garage, Little Budworth."
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The Water Engineer and myself have had the benefit of the advice of the County Analyst, Mr. S. E. Melling, as he continued to act throughout the year as the Council's Water Examiner and Consultant. In spite of the not altogether satisfactory analytical reports on the raw supplies at their sources, the Engineer, acting on the Analyst's advice, has been able to so adjust the system of treatment, etc. that the consumers have always had a wholesome and potable water supply.

The availability of the supply to the area has been further extended and out of 3,337 houses only 4 are not supplied from public mains. These 4 non-public supplies have, however, been analysed and found to be satisfactory. There are no houses in the area receiving a public supply by means of standpipes.

I am indebted to Mr. P. Heaton, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, for the following under the heading of:—

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

“The Town's Drainage system has been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the past twelve months. A new sewer is about to be commenced draining Deakins Road Area and providing for the development of the new industry in that locality. Existing houses and farm not now sewered will be connected.

Extensive sewerage systems have been constructed on the Kingsway & Dene Housing Estates, all connecting to the Council's existing sewage disposal works. Separate systems of drainage are being laid, roof and surface water being carried to existing water-courses and to the river and sewage drained to a separate system of sewers to the sewerage works. It is felt that although this system is more expensive in the first cost, it is economical in the long run, by reducing initial expenditure at sewage disposal works, and annual cost of treatment.

The Council's sewage works at Stanthorne have had the revolving sprinklers renewed. The sewage works at Meadow Bank continue working in a remarkably satisfactory condition. The main sewage works on the banks of the Lower Flash have been maintained in the past year in a satisfactory condition, despite total inundation during the great floods in February last.

The proposed sewage system in the Swanlow South & Blaken area have not as yet been commenced on account of pressure of work in the development of the new housing estate and to uncertainty in zoning proposals under the Town Planning Schemes. Their extent may be limited by the latest Town Planning proposals.”

Closet Accommodation.

During the year the number of conversion to the water carriage system was 10. A detailed survey has been made of the closets and cesspools accommodation in the district. These have been summarised into three categories and a definite scheme of

conversion has been decided upon by the Council with the object of eliminating these unsatisfactory fittings at an early date. Out of 3,337 houses it is interesting to note that 300 only have pail closets or cesspools. Many of these 300 are likely to be demolished as the housing situation improves.

Public Cleansing.

The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Statement of Inspections Made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of Service of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Re-maining in hand	Prosecutions	
						Instituted	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspections)	650	—	135	100	35	—	—
2. Cellar Dwellings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Back-to-back Houses	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies	15	—	7	6	1	—	—
7. Cesspools	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. House Drainage	78	6	54	48	12	—	—
9. Ditches, Watercourses, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Offensive Accumulations	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
11. Keeping of Animals	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. (a) Slaughterhouse (Public)	540	—	7	7	—	—	—
(Used by the Ministry of Food)							
(b) Slaughterhouses (Private)	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Other places where food is produced or sold	102	—	6	—	—	—	—
14. Piggeries	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. (a) Dairies	65	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Shippens	73	—	4	2	2	—	—
(c) Milkshops	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. (a) Factories with mechanical power	24	—	2	—	2	—	—
(b) Factories without mechanical power	15	—	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Other premises under the Act (including works of building)	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Outworkers' premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Ashbins	52	2	40	36	6	—	—
18. Bakehouses (overground)	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Houses Let in Lodgings	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Smoke Observations	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. River Boats	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Infectious Diseases Inquiries and Re-visits	53	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Miscellaneous	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1787	8	257	201	58	—	—

Factories Inspection.

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	24	2	—
„ without „ „	15	1	—
Other Premises	10	—	—
Totals ...	49	3	—

Defects found in Factories.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	3	1	1	—
Unsuitable or Defective				
Not separate for sexes				
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	1	1	—

SECTION D. HOUSING.

In the early months of the year the Council were concerned about the condition of some of the working-class houses in the Town, but found they had not at their disposal sufficient up-to-date information on the subject. They then sought the assistance of the local W.V.S. who, on behalf of the Council, volunteered to carry out a limited survey. As a result, 491 houses were visited by members of this Voluntary Service. The information obtained, however, whilst in some ways valuable, was not regarded by the Council as sufficiently detailed, with the result that in May, 1945, the Council appointed a temporary Officer with building knowledge to carry out a more thorough and detailed survey in those parts of the town where it was suspected that there were working-class houses of a low standard. The following is a summary of this Officer's work up to the end of December, 1945, when the Council decided to terminate his services :—

No. of working-class houses inspected and recorded in detail :—

...

...

...

...

518

Provisional grouping of these houses :—

Houses which are in a good state of repair and reasonably fit for human habitation :—	...	36
Houses which are in a fair state of repair and can be brought up, at a reasonable cost, to pre-war standards of fitness :—	... ..	184
Houses which in ordinary times might have been worth while repairing but at to-day's prices do not merit (in the Officer's view) cost of repairs and improvements :—	... ..	204
Houses which are of a low standard for human habitation :—	... ..	94
No. of informal and formal Notices served, as the outcome of the Survey, calling attention to defects requiring first-aid measures to render the houses reasonably fit and safe to live in :—	...	146

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** The inspection of Dairy premises has been continued throughout the year and County Council Laboratory reports on 24 samples of " farm milk " show that :—

16 samples satisfied both the coliform & methylene blue tests.
7 ,, ,, the methylene blue test only.
1 ,, failed to pass either tests.

Appropriate action was taken in respect of all unsatisfactory samples.

(b) **Meat and other Foods.** The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspector, is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	950	1552	2375	9312	194
Number inspected	950	1552	2375	9312	194
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	19	55	4	5	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	92	274	6	303	4
Percentage of the number in- spected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	11.68%	21.19%	.42%	3.30%	3.60%
<i>Tuberculosis Only :—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	14	41	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	91	643	4	—	35
Percentage of the number in- spected, affected with Tuber- culosis	11.05%	44.%	.16%	—	19.07%

46 carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, the entire carcasses and organs of 29 were condemned; the remainder were passed less any part-carcasses and offals which were surrendered.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified 9 suspected cases of Anthrax, one of which was reported on as positive.

- (c) The inspection of Food Preparing premises has been continued during the year. At the time of writing (1946) the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to such premises and the formal registration of those premises which comply with these requirements have been most carefully considered by the Council.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low and calls for no special comment. Both of the 2 cases of Diphtheria notified proved to be clinical Diphtheria and one of them had received protective treatment under the Council's Scheme some 3—4 years previously.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1945.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	5	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Pneumonia	4	—	1
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Measles	25	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number Submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	6	—	6
Vincent's Angina	1	—	1

(2) Tuberculosis.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 - 5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 - 15 „ ...	1	...	1	..	...	...	...	...
15 - 25 „ ...	1	...	...	2	2	2	1	...
25 - 35 „ ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...
35 - 45 „ ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45 - 55 „ ...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...
55 - 65 „ ...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Totals ...	2	3	2	2	2	3	1	...

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1944 — 103.

„ „ „ „ „ 1945 — 93.

It should be mentioned that whilst during the war years there has been a steady increase year by year in the number of Tuberculosis patients on the Town's register, some of the 1945 reduction (from 103 to 93 cases) is accounted for by a review made, with the County Medical Officer's and local Doctors' assistance, of the register as a whole, and the removal therefrom of a limited number of old recovered cases.

30 Sputum specimens taken from local patients were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 2 being reported on as positive.

(3) Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1941—1945 the progress made in Winsford under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which was commenced jointly in 1941 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Authorities, can be gathered from the following figures ;—

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Percentage of children treated between 1—5 years of age :—	% 18.2	% 36.0	% 51.4	% 47.1	% 51.4
Percentage of children treated between 5—15 years of age :—	% 71.9	% 90.9	% 86.1	% 86.8	% 84.1

The improvement in the percentages of “under fives” receiving treatment under the Council's Scheme during the war years is gratifying and is being even further improved upon during 1946. The total number of children known to have received protective treatment in the Winsford Urban area up to December, 1945, was 2,607 of whom 176 have received “booster” injections.

(4) Scabies and Verminous Infestation.

The arrangements under the Scabies Order, made jointly in 1942 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Authorities, worked satisfactorily during the year under review and a further slight reduction in 1945 in the number of cases of vermin infestation can be recorded.

The following sets out the 1942-1945 number of Winsford Urban patients dealt with :—

			1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Cases of Scabies	...	...	285	195	115	108
Cases of Pediculosis	...	...	2	1	3	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...		287	196	118	108
Number of Households involved			110	85	54	45

The 1944 and 1945 Scabies figures, viz. 115 and 108 new cases, suggests a steady yearly incidence of just over 100 cases. This is confirmed by the figure of 55 new cases for the first six months of 1946.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least twice during the year and 10 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin. In particular the arrangements made for the disinfection of mattresses and bedding of Tuberculosis cases have been "tightened up" and full use of the steam disinfector at the Davenham Isolation Hospital has been made during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1946.